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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/578,523	05/08/2006	Joachim Gericke	2003P16149	5140

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EXAMINER

FISHMAN, MARINA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2832

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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05/23/2008

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/578,523	Applicant(s) GERICKE ET AL.	
	Examiner Marina Fishman	Art Unit 2832	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2008.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 9 – 15, 17 and 18 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 9 – 15, 17 and 18 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>05/09/2008</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

General status

1. This is a **Final** Action on the Merits for RCE. Claims 9 – 15, 17 and 18 are pending in the case and are being examined.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 9 – 15, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schoenemann et al. [US 6,211,478] in view of B.G. Tremblay [US 2,504,906]

Schoenemann et al. disclose a switching device, comprising:

- a first and a second arcing contact piece [11, 14], lying axially opposite one another [Figure 1];
- a first and a second rated current contact piece [6, 8], disposed coaxially with respect to the arcing contact pieces, at least one of the rated current contact pieces [6, 8] having a hollow-cylindrical basic body [Figure 1] with a front at an end facing a switching path of the switching device;
- an arc-resistant material [36, 37, 38] covering the front, and

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- contact making points [tips of 33, Figures 3a, 3b] disposed between the first and second rated current contact pieces [6, 8] and lying axially in a region of the arc-resistant material in a switched-on state of the switching device,
- the arc resistant material [36] making initial contact with the contact making points and also making contact with the contact making points in the switched-on state of the switching device [Figures 3b, 3c];
- wherein the arc-resistant material is made of plurality of different metals [column 9, lines 20-42].

Regarding Claim 9, Schoenemann et al. disclose the instant claimed invention except for the arc-resistant material having an electroplating surface. B.G. Tremblay discloses an electric contact member [10, 12, 14] wherein the member [14] was subject to electroplating [Column 4, lines 57 – 70]. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have the arc-resistant material with an electroplating surface in Schoenemann et al., in order to provide corrosion resistance [Column 4, lines 32 – 37] and improve contact performance characteristics. Regarding Claim 10 the arc-resistant material is fixed to the hollow-cylindrical body in a form of a ring [34, Column 5, line 24]. Regarding Claim 11, the ring, has a wall thickness smaller at the further end, facing away from the switching path [wall has thickness of element 3] than at the end facing the switching path (element 34, plus shoulder, Figure 3b). Regarding Claim 15, fixing device [only shoulder shown, Figure 3b]

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in the area of increased wall thickness. Regarding Claims 12 -14 and 17, Schoenemann et al. disclose insulating bodies, a nozzle [12] and an element [5], and in Figure 4a and 5a, Schoenemann et al. disclose bolt connection extending axially between the housing part and contact-carrying element [41, 39, 40, 15, 9], however Schoenemann et al. do not disclose the detail of connections between the insulating bodies and the housing or partitions, and pressure element (pressure washer) between the bolt and the connecting parts. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use axially extending bolt with pressure element/washer in embodiment of Figure 1 of Schoenemann et al. to connect insulating bodies [5, 12] with contact carrying elements [9, 23], so as to fix the two parts in a vibration proof manner [pressure washers are known to be used for retaining connection between two parts in vibration proof environment].

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 4/8/2008 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

The Applicant has argued that in Tremblay, the surface layer 15 of the composite member 14 is composed of essentially pure silver. The Examiner wishes to point out that Schoenemann et al. has been used as primary reference and not Tremblay, and Schoenemann in Column 9, lines 20-42, discloses arc resistant material made of plurality of metals, such as W, Mo, Ir, Cu, Ag, Ti, Fe, etc. Tremblay has been used for teaching of silver coated plating on the arc resistant surface (column 4, lines 58 - 70 teach that the pure silver surface layer

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15 of the composite member 14 is electroplated to deposit a silver plate 16.

Column 4, lines 64 -70 teach that the silver plate 16 serves as an arc-resistant material.)

Conclusion

5. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Marina Fishman whose telephone number is (571)272-1991. The examiner can normally be reached on 7-5 M-T.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Elvin Enad can be reached on 571-272-1990. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Elvin G Enad/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art
Unit 2832

/Marina Fishman/
Examiner, Art Unit 2832
May 19, 2008